

# Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area



## Donor Impact

## Report 2018



# From the Executive Director

**DSCBA Supporter Dominique Yancey and Nancy LaBelle at the 20th Anniversary Gala**

As we close out a wonderful 20th anniversary year at the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, I'd like to reflect on our amazing growth and the vast community of generous people that made it all possible. The Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation, for example, will always be in our heart. DSCBA Founder Martha Hogan still remembers their startup grant that enabled it all to begin, and they continued to support us for 19 years.

Every year we are grateful for our members, and the many foundations, service groups, and other donors who consistently give to further our mission. Their support shows that they trust we are creating change, opening doors to opportunities, providing impactful programs, and supporting our families throughout the Bay Area.

One thing that stood out in our 20th anniversary year was the increase in community fundraising efforts. Our staff works very hard each year to raise just under half of a million dollars through our walk and gala fundraising efforts. To have members of the community fundraise for us takes a burden off our staff and makes a huge impact. It keeps us doing what we should be doing, which is concentrating on our members' needs and providing programs.

Fundraising comes in many forms, and in 2018 we were humbled to receive \$16,000 from our social media followers and members who donated their birthdays to us on Facebook. Chevron, our longtime community partner, put coin boxes in their station stores, and to date those have raised more than \$40,000. The wonderful people of the Kids-N-Need group gave us just shy of \$20,000 from their annual golf tournament, local Rotarians and Kiwanians gave over \$7,000 from their fundraising efforts, and our year-end appeal raised \$15,000, thanks to our members.

Now we move on to our twenty-first year. It will be a year of substantial expansion of programs into new areas of the Bay, serving many more members directly.

As our 2018 Donor Impact Report shows, we accomplished a great deal, and we intend to continue doing so in 2019. We empower, inspire, and support our members as well as the community that serves them. It is our mission, and we are proud to carry it out with your continued support.

Thank you for your continued kindness.

*Nancy LaBelle*



## Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area

*Inspire • Empower • Support*

### Contact Us

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[www.dsconnection.org](http://www.dsconnection.org)



[www.facebook.com/DSCBA](https://www.facebook.com/DSCBA)



Twitter handle:  
[DSCBayArea](https://twitter.com/DSCBayArea)

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Karen Lochner  
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Cathleen Small  
Medical Outreach Alliance Director

# Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Medical  
Outreach  
Alliance

New Family  
Support



New DSCBA member Anna Catherine Lammers. (Photo by Kevin McCladdery)



**35** New babies welcomed

**47** Families attended Early Connections support groups

**600** Hours of phone & in-person consultation

**1,000+** Pediatricians contacted

**96** Information packets sent to pediatricians with patients with Down syndrome

**202** Pediatricians, nurses, geneticists, genetic counselors, students, and Family Resource Center staff trained

“ The DSCBA has assisted in guiding and preparing us for this journey. Everywhere from appointments, to milestones, to introducing us to other amazing families, to simply giving us advice on how to tell our family and friends about the diagnosis.

But most of all, they have provided us with resources to allow us to become the best advocate, parent, teacher, and student we can be for our Ava. ”

- Theresa Guillermo

# It's All About Relationships

## Peer Development Classes



Building lifelong friendships: Peer Development Classes are age-specific weekly classes focusing on educational, physical, and social developmental needs specific to people born with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. We currently offer Early Elementary, Tweens/Teens and Young Adults, and Adult classes throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Pictured above is the Danville Young Adult class: (back row) Patrick Harkins, Brett Katovich, Tatiana Casadont, Grant Riley, Adam Ferguson, Christian James, (front row) Emma Tippett, Lucas Dillon, Nicky Lowe, Juliana Portoni, T.J. Crawford.



**74** Participants ages 4-58 in Peer Development Classes in 6 communities: Danville, Oakland, San Francisco, Benicia, Berkeley, and the Peninsula

**14**  
Peer  
Volunteers

 **8**  
Scholarships  
Provided

“ The Peer Development Classes give K. Leigh a social outlet. She has a strong sense of belonging and being part of a community. She feels surrounded by loving and supportive people, and people who believe in her abilities, not her disabilities. ”

*-Layne Alfrey, K. Leigh's mom*

# Down Syndrome Education Alliance



Promoting awareness: (from left) "Social Smarts" Teacher Susie Kossa-Rienzi, Clio Rasler, DSCBA Education Support Manager Elizabeth Lewis, and DSCBA Ability Awareness Associate Eli Cooper conducting an Ability Awareness workshop at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Berkeley.

## DSEA Empowerment Opportunities

Ability Awareness

**3,436** Students

**193** Educators

**24** Schools



Accommodations & Modifications

**78** Educators & Parents

Inclusive Education & Strategies

**438** Educators



Road to Success

**173** Educators & Parents

**80+** Consultations for parents and educators on Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and more

“ Thank you for the valuable input you have provided as we trek the circuitous route of IEPs. We are very grateful.

- Ed Balocating

The students were absorbed in the discussion and have deepened their understanding of people with various abilities. You've enriched the lives of all our students! ”

- Jessica Chin, Inclusion Specialist

# Communication Readiness Program



McKinley Henry (right) and Ian Randick learning to spell their names through multiple tools in CRP.



**6** -week summer communication-based program and school-based follow-up with educational teams

**15%** Average increase in communication skills following pre- and post-program testing

**16** Children ages 4-7 participated

**4** Conference presentations on CRP and its intervention model



All received AAC instruction using technology such as iPads & communication boards

# Reimare's Communication Success Story

By Kati Skulski, Speech & Language Pathologist with  
DSCBA's Communication Readiness Program

In December 2017, I received an email from a family who had just moved to the area from Illinois. After chatting with Erin, Reimare's mom, I learned he loves Pete the Cat, is bilingual (English and Spanish) and just got a brand-new NOVA chat (a speech-generating communication device) to help him communicate.

Following the move to California, Erin was ready to explore NOVA chat with Reimare. He was enrolled in preschool and saw a speech therapist, but everyone was feeling unsure about the device. Was he ready? What vocabulary was appropriate? Was it too big for him? Was this right? It was obvious Reimare was an excellent candidate for Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) but his team had a lot to learn.

I put them in touch with a sales rep from the NOVA chat manufacturer for training and provided them with some literature about introducing AAC. We made materials to teach and encourage Reimare to use his talker to make requests, play games, and read books.

Summer came and Reimare was enrolled in our Communication Readiness Program (CRP). In preparing for the program we knew to explore the NOVA chat with Reimare. Fortunately, we also had two Speech & Language Pathologists (SLPs) who were bilingual and could work with our friend! Then, the exploration began. We needed to find the vocabulary that would be significant, determine how many buttons Reimare needed on the page, and most of all answer the question of whether it was the right fit.

After multiple trials, we found a fit: The grid number was reduced to increase Reimare's accuracy in selection. The vocabulary on the AAC system was customized with meaningful and functional words to meet his communication needs at CRP and at home. We added a feature that allowed him to toggle between English and Spanish.

By the end of the program, Reimare's independence with his AAC device was emerging. With some help, he was able to use the icons to request his favorite foods! We knew we finally came to a good fit when Erin shared, "I saw how he knew exactly how to turn his speech device on and say 'I want water' after finishing the program."

As an SLP & AAC Specialist, this is an absolute success story! It also shows the training, dedication, and team approach it takes for communication to happen.



“ By the end of the program, Reimare's independence with his AAC device was emerging. With some help, he was able to use the icons to request his favorite foods! ”

“ [Since completing CRP] Braeden is attempting new words, or approximations, when prompted or asked to say. He has even started saying “Mommy” rather than simply pointing toward me. Music to my ears! ” -Melissa Howell

# Celebrating Achievement



Madison Ferreira shows off her medal at the Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk.

**Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk**

**\$246,908**

Raised

**1,400** Attendees

**250** Volunteers

 **245**

Participants in music therapy in Danville and the Peninsula

**81**

Members, Bay Area Down Syndrome and Autism Alliance Private Facebook Support Group.

## Peninsula Services

- Music Therapy
- Peer Development Classes
- Support groups
- Social events
- Workshops
- Fundraisers

## Adult Services

- Peer Development Classes
- Employment for 6 adults with Down syndrome
- Family consultation
- Information & referral
- Private Facebook group for parents of teens/adults

**YOU Make It Happen!**

**DONATE at**  
[dsconnection.org](http://dsconnection.org)



# DSCBA Turned 20!

20th Anniversary  
GALA



**\$207,823**

Raised

**350** Attendees

**386** Donations



**4,900**

Facebook  
Followers

Blair Hogan & Tatiana Casadont looking sharp & celebrating at DSCBA's 20th Anniversary Gala. Photo by Jack Arent.

## Workshops

- Securing Your Child's Financial Future
- Puberty
- Relationships (for individuals with DS)
- Art
- Mental Health

## Recognition

- Charitable Organization of the Year from the Danville Chamber of Commerce
- Charitable Organization of the Month from Assemblywoman Catherine Baker's office
- Assemblyman Timothy Grayson proclaimed World Down Syndrome Week in March in Sacramento and recognized DSCBA on the floor of the state senate

“ Especially powerful for us have been the What to Do When You Disagree With the IEP seminar, the Special Needs Trust seminar, and the monthly music therapy, which is helping our son to understand classroom expectations, interact with his peers, and enjoy music! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, DSCBA!! ”

- Diane Flick

# Supporter Highlight



**“Sometimes the things we can’t change end up changing us.”**

**-Unknown**

**The Marino Family (from left): David, Gail, Kimberly, Gary, and Tanya**

## Marino Family Charitable Foundation

*The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area would like to thank the Marino Family Charitable Foundation for its generous support over the last four years. We have been so touched by this family, especially after meeting Gail, Gary, Tanya, and Kimberly. We wanted to share a bit about them with you and why they give to DSCBA. Gail Marino was gracious enough to answer our questions about the Foundation.*

### **What is the mission and purpose of the Marino Family Charitable Foundation?**

The Marino Family Charitable Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals by offering support to nonprofit organizations who have demonstrated, through their charitable works and core values, the ability to make a positive difference in and further advance, educate or enrich their communities. Special consideration will be given to those organizations that work with and assist individuals with Down syndrome.

We want to be relevant today and in existence forever with our support, especially concerning people who have Down syndrome.

### **What was the inspiration for starting the Foundation?**

It is obvious to most people that our inspiration for starting the Foundation is our beautiful daughter, Kimberly, who is the love and joy of our lives! When she tells us “I love my life!,” that is all the inspiration we need to give and help others who need support to reach their potential and be happy.

### **Tell us about Kimberly and her recent accomplishments.**

Kimberly is 43 years old, and despite orthopedic and upper respiratory problems when she was a child, she has amazing resilience. She doesn't complain and she never gives up. My late dad said that he had never seen a child as disciplined as Kimberly.

# Supporter Highlight

Kim loves, loves, loves any kind of music. She is also very fit. She lost 52 pounds after her second hip replacement and has kept it off for 14 years. Kim's most recent accomplishment is learning to play piano after never having played an instrument before. We are amazed at how well she can read and play the music. She really enjoys it.

Kimberly also is a world traveler. She has really amazed us with how well she kept up with everybody on our recent trip around the world while visiting many third-world countries under difficult conditions. The people in these countries seemed to celebrate her being there. I really felt she was somewhat an ambassador for people who have Down syndrome!

## What motivated you initially to give to the Down Syndrome Connection in 2014?

My husband and I realized that we would not be around forever and we wanted to make sure our children were as involved and motivated as we are in using our financial ability to help others. We had decided that we would not just support people or organizations where we live in Florida, but also near where our children live to give them the opportunity to be more involved. Our banker at Wells Fargo recommended your organization to our daughter Tanya as a support group for Down syndrome close to San Francisco. Since Tanya was living in San Francisco and working for the Marino Family Charitable Foundation as President, it seemed like a perfect fit especially after getting information about DSCBA and learning how well the group was doing.

## What keeps you giving to DSCBA over the past four years?

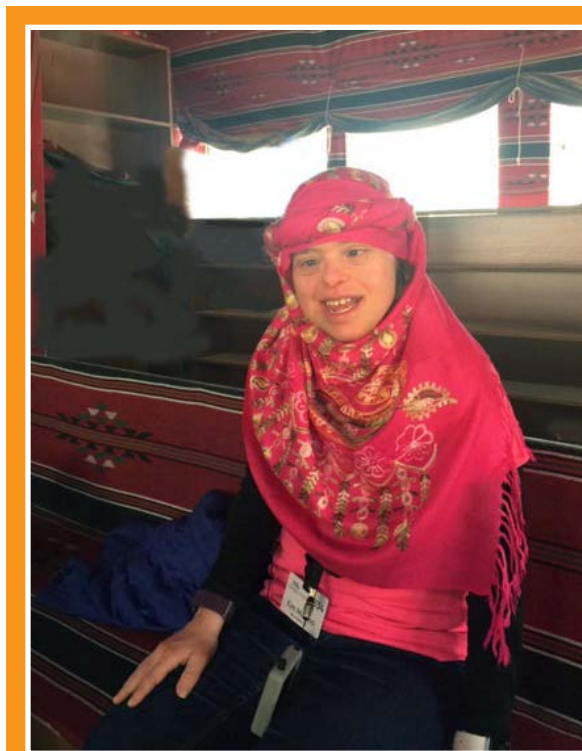
I truly believe your Executive Director, Nancy LaBelle, is an amazing leader and a driving force to help make things happen for the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area! DSCBA covers such a huge area and your education programs are right on target. Not only have you met or exceeded most of your objectives throughout the years, but also, I found out by visiting your facility, that you have a truly spirited and happy group of teachers, board members and young people who have Down syndrome that connect with each other in different ways. When we first visited your facility I loved seeing the pictures of all ages of people who have Down syndrome displayed on your walls. That showed me that you are dedicated to supporting individuals with Down syndrome to live a quality of life and that should be and is your focus.

The Marino Family Charitable Foundation is so proud to help you continue your important programs and objectives so that opportunities can be afforded to everyone.

## What do you hope for the future of the Marino Family Charitable Foundation?

“ When she tells us ‘I love my life!’, that is all the inspiration we need to give and help others who need support to reach their potential and be happy. ”

My hope is that we can continue to grow and reach more and more people who have Down syndrome and other disabilities, to help make their dreams come true through our donations. This couldn't be better said than by this quote from coach Dabo Swinney (Clemson's head football coach): "I want to tell everyone to dream big and believe, because dreams come true, and today I am very humbled that one of my dreams has come true." That quote really says it all.



Kimberly Marino in Petra, Jordan, 2018



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## Financial Statement

**Income: \$932,823** (Budget: \$880,000)

Grants: \$258,672  
Step Up for DS Walk: \$246,908  
Gala: \$207,223  
Other Fundraisers: \$90,534  
Program Service Fees: \$54,395  
Misc.: \$331

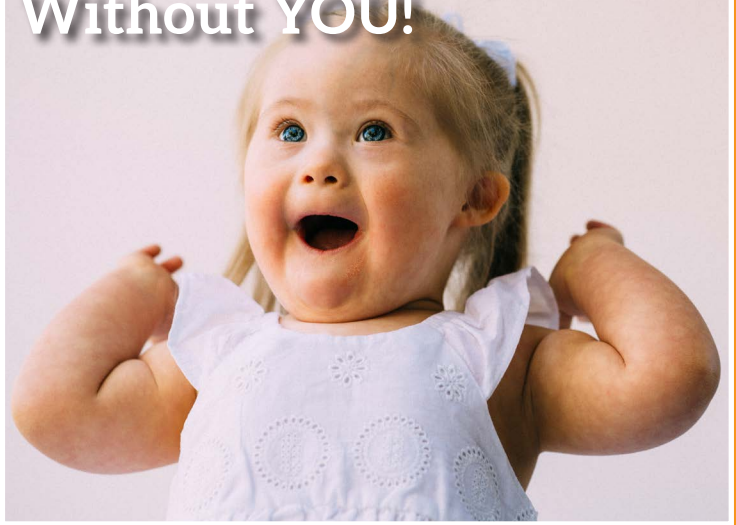
**Expenses: \$866,111** (Budget: \$880,000)

Programs: \$647,106 (75%)  
Admin & Fundraising: \$219,005 (25%)

**Net Income: \$66,712**

Increased income due to growth in our fundraisers and other groups' fundraisers. We have reinvested into our 2019 programs, services, and reserve fund.

**We Couldn't Do It  
Without YOU!**



*Alaya Gerami. Photo by Kevin McGladdery*

## Foundation, Corporate, & Major Donors

THANK YOU to ALL of our supporters at any level. Due to limited space, we are highlighting those at \$2,500+.

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